



# NYAPT

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

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*Our future is riding with us!*

**Press Release:** February 16, 2016  
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## **STATE ASSOCIATION SURVEY:** **NEARLY 35,000 ILLEGAL PASSES IN ONE DAY!**

The New York Association for Pupil Transportation today released the results of a survey taken on February 10, 2016, to measure the incidence of motorists illegally passing stopped school buses. And the results require a CALL TO ACTION by New York parents and community leaders and the media.

In the **23** school districts that participated, **618** school bus drivers reported they were passed a total of **431** times, including **7** passes on the passenger side of the school bus. That is nearly one time for every school bus reporting.

At that rate of passing when applied to over 50,000 school buses in New York State, the total estimated illegal passing rate is **34,871 passes** for that day. That same calculation would mean that **526** motorists passed school buses on the **RIGHT** side of the bus on that date.

Since October 2015 when NYAPT started conducting these surveys, the results have been as follows:

 October 2015:	19,129
 November 2015:	30,735
 December 2015:	32,456
 January 2016:	23,841
 February 2016:	<b>34,871</b>

NYAPT President, David Adam, noted that “Over five months of our survey, this is the highest count by far. Our survey is now averaging 28,206 passes per day. This means over 28,000 motorists are really putting our children are AT RISK of being injured or killed every day! Our bus drivers are witnessing this every day and it becomes a stress point because they don’t know where that car is going to come from next and hurt the children they are dedicated to protecting. That is totally unacceptable.”

NYAPT is urging the Senate and Assembly to pass legislation that will allow cameras to be mounted on school buses and the evidence from those cameras to be used to prosecute motorists who pass stopped school buses illegally. NYAPT believes there is significant support for that legislation (S3509B-Sen. Young and A1520B-Assemblyman Magnarelli) and that it would pass if it came to a vote.

NYAPT Executive Director, Peter Mannella, noted: “We have shared five months of data on this problem and it’s time for action. February is National Love the Bus month and we wish that motorists would show respect not only for the school bus but mostly for the children who ride on those school buses. Parents and community leaders need to join us in this call for action. We need to pass legislation that will help us apprehend and ticket motorists who blow by red lights in ignorance, distraction or indifference. We need the media to join with us to call attention to this high risk driving behavior. It’s time New Yorkers lined up in support of safety for our children. **STOP FOR THE SCHOOL BUS!** It’s all for the safety of our children!”

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